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## **Governor's Grants Office Wins National Recognition; Releases Annual Report to Legislature today**

*Maryland, "A Clear Leader Among States," is asked to testify before U.S. Senate on bi-partisan government accountability bill*

**ANNAPOLIS, MD (July 13, 2006)** — The Maryland Governor's Grants office today released its 2006 Annual Report to the General Assembly. The 325-page report contains comprehensive data on federal funds allocated to each county and new sections geared toward small and minority businesses, community and faith-based organizations, and individuals seeking educational financial assistance. The report also includes detailed information on the 499 grants received by Maryland state agencies, with a total increase of \$419 million from the previous fiscal year.

Established in 2004 by Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., The Maryland Governor's Grants Office recently received the National Grants Management Association's 2006 Special Achievement Award, bestowed annually on "an organization that has made a notable contribution to grants management through a single action or combination of activities." The Governor's Grants also office continues to be recognized as a "Best Practice" by the National Governor's Association.

"I created this Office to better coordinate how State agencies find, win, and manage federal grants," said Governor Ehrlich. "By successfully increasing the amount of grant money coming into Maryland, and improving the quality of our grants management, we are making Maryland a friendlier place in which to live and do business.

During the last federal fiscal year, Maryland realized the single largest increase of any state in returns on federal taxes, an increase per capita of 10 cents over the previous year. Also, new audit findings dropped from 44 to 25 in just one year, a marked improvement by the State in accountability of taxpayers' dollars. "Since its creation, the Maryland Governor's Grants Office has provided detailed technical assistance to Maryland state agencies, local governments, and non-profit organizations. In this regard, Maryland is a clear leader among the states," noted Edward T. Waters, President of NGMA.

Because of its national reputation as a leader in grants management, Maryland was the only state invited to testify on behalf of the bi-partisan "Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006," sponsored by U.S. Senator Tom Coburn (R- OK). Co-sponsors of the bill include Senators Barack Obama (D-IL), Tom Carper (D-DE), and John McCain (R-AZ). Senators Obama and McCain are also scheduled to testify in favor of the act, which seeks to strengthen government accountability by making federal spending more transparent to the public. Eric Brenner, Director of the Maryland Governor's Grants Office,

will testify before the U.S. Senate Subcommittee of Federal Financial Management, Government Information, and International Security on Tuesday, July 18, 2006 at 2:30 p.m. in room 342 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C. Marylanders may request copies of the Governor's Grants Office Annual Report 2006 and Mr. Brenner's testimony before the U.S. Senate by calling the Grants Office at 410-974-5090 or by emailing [mdgrants@gov.state.md.us](mailto:mdgrants@gov.state.md.us).

The Governor's Grants Office 2006 Annual Report can be found on the office's web site at [www.gov.state.md.us/grants/](http://www.gov.state.md.us/grants/).

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